of global investors. The inflow of FDI to approval ratio has shown consistent improvement, increasing from 17% in 1992 to 52% in 2000 and 72% in 2001 upto September, 2001. Government has set up the Foreign Investment Implementation Authority to act as a single-point interface between the foreign investors and various approval authorities, and to facilitate speedy project implementation.

Review of Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty

2300. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty is due for review in December, 2001;

(b) if so, whether Nepal has insisted that the Treaty be extended in its present form;

(c) whether India is considering prescription of minimum value addition to Nepalese imports and also for unilateral right for checks in case of sudden surge in imports; and

(d) what other measures/safeguards Government are likely to insist on to protect the domestic industry, while reviewing the Treaty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) to (d) Discussions are in progress between the concerned authorities of India and Nepal to resolve certain issues that have emerged during the implementation of the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade, as modified in December, 1996, prior to the extension of its validity. A limited extension of the Treaty for a period of three months from December 5, 2001 has been agreed to enable the negotiations to the Treaty to be concluded.

Foreign investment in Agrani Satellite Services

2301. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved the proposal of Agrani Satellite Services Limited to induct 74 per cent foreign equity into the company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ASSL is procuring a satellite system from Alcatel Space Industries at a total project cost of Rs. 1,197 crore; and

(d) if so, to what extent the approval will help in getting the foreign equity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) : (a) to (d) The Government of India have approved the proposal of Agrani Satellite Services Limited to set up a joint venture with M/s Agrani Satcoms (Mauritius) Ltd. and other foreign partners to own, establish and operate an Indian Satellite System 'AGRANI-2'. The foreign equity participation in the new company will be 74%. The satellite system named 'AGRANI-2', is to be procured from Alcatel Space Industries to address the C-and Ku-band fixed satellite services market requirements in India and neighbouring countries with total project cost of Rs. 1,197 crore. The company has identified two foreign investors namely Alcatel Space Com S.A., France and Arianespace S.A., France, who would be subscribing to the extent of 9.75% (US$ 15 million) and 3.25% (US$ 05 million), respectively, in the equity share capital of the company within the approved limit of 74% foreign equity.

Provision of transport subsidy

2302. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether no transport subsidy has been given to UT of Lakshadweep though the scheme to promote industry in remote, hilly and inaccessible areas was launched since 1971;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar have also not been given subsidy during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the amount of subsidy given to Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar during the fiscal year 2000-01?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) : (a) to (c) Under the Transport Subsidy Scheme, 1971, the Central Government reimburses the amount disbursed by State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to eligible industrial unit